

MINUTES: Centerville Township Windmill Ordinance Committee, June 5, 2006

Present: Molly Hyde, Mark Zemanek, Richard Light, Carolyn Weed, Travis Nelson, Richard Kobetz, Gary Cook, David Wurm

Absent: Dale Pleva, Joe Czerniak

Mr. Wurm reported an update on the legal issue of moratorium vs. an amendment to the existing. It was stated that either option was legally acceptable, however a timeframe must be included with both. A moratorium is implied to have an end. The committee was still of the opinion that an ordinance change as worded would be the better option and would present that to the planning board.

The committee worked on a Statement of Purpose. The ordinance that is written by this committee will be consistent with the township master plan. The purpose establishes the guidelines and criteria for the work and research to be conducted. There was a motion by Mr. Nelson and support by Mr. Light to adopt the statement of purpose. It passed unanimously.

The committee Plan of Action was also completed as requested by the Planning board. It was determined that up to a year would be necessary to complete all research and draft an ordinance. The actual schedule can be tentative. It can be adjusted as necessary each month. The committee will break into sub-groups to cover different subjects. It was mentioned that there had been presentations for the Michigan Wind Working Group on various subjects such as noise, shadow flicker, etc. that are available on DVD. These would be valuable presentations for our group to watch. Documents have been compiled by various ordinance committees around the country and are available for our own research. This is a complex task and the committee needs to make sure that it is done right. A timeline is necessary but the committee doesn't want to fail to consider issues because time runs out. Mr. Nelson will consolidate the timelines that several committee members have proposed into one schedule through June of 2007.

Mr. Zemanek reported a conversation with Max Machuta from Radio North who indicated that he did not think there would be any 911 interference. Mr. Cook used nickels to represent turbines on a township map to demonstrate the density of 60 wind turbines. Mr. Kobetz brought in some scale drawings of 400' turbines in relation to a 2-story home and showed examples of how those turbines would be viewed from various setbacks on an even terrain. Density and setbacks will need to be addressed. Mr. Light reported that major tax benefits are available to turbine companies right now. These large tax incentives along with the income from the wind generators are behind the many proposed wind farm projects around the country right now.

The next meeting will be June 19 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Hyde

